

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03

SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PRS-01 AEC-11

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4523

INFO DOD WASHDC

USCINCEUR

HQ 3AF RAF MILDENHALL

CINCUSNAVEUR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, UK, PFOR, MARR

SUBJECT: LABOR PARTY DEMANDS REMOVAL OF NUCLEAR
BASES FROM UK

REF: LONDON 4653

1. LABOR PARTY'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE YESTERDAY APPROVED

A RESOLUTION DEMANDING "THE CLOSING DOWN OF ALL
NUCLEAR BASES, BRITISH OR AMERICAN, ON BRITISH SOIL

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OR IN BRITISH WATERS." THE RESOLUTION REAFFIRMED A

SIMILAR DECISION TAKEN AT LAST YEAR'S CONFERENCE,
BUT THIS TIME ADDED A DEMAND THAT THE PLEDGE BE
INCLUDED IN THE PARTY'S GENERAL ELECTION MANIFESTO.
IT ALSO CALLED FOR A MASSIVE CUT IN DEFENSE SPENDING.

2. JIM CALLAGHAN, LABOR SHADOW FOREIGN SECRETARY,
SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE (NEC), APPEALED TO THE DELEGATES TO REMIT
THE RESOLUTION FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION PENDING THE
OUTCOME OF SALT AND OTHER EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS.
HIS PLEA WENT UNHEEDED AS CONFERENCE PASSED THE
RESOLUTION BY A MARGIN OF BETTER THAN 5(OO 4
CALLAGHAN SUCCEEDED, HOWEVER, IN PERSUADING CONFERENCE
TO DEFEAT, BY A MARGIN OF 8 TO 3, AN AMENDMENT CALLING
FOR BRITISH WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO.

3. AT A CLOSED EVE-OF-CONFERENCE MEETING OF THE NEC
SEPTEMBER 30, CALLAGHAN ARGUED WITH CONSIDERABLE
PASSION THE CASE AGAINST DEMANDING THE REMOVAL OF
NUCLEAR BASES FROM BRITAIN AND FINALLY PERSUADED HIS
COLLEAGUES, BY A VOTE OF 17 TO 9, TO OPPOSE THE
RESOLUTION. IN YESTERDAY'S DEBATE BEFORE THE FULL
CONFERENCE, HOWEVER, HIS POWERS OF PERSUASION WERE
OF LITTLE AVAIL AGAINST THE STRONG LEFTWARD TIES THAT
HAS DOMINATED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS ALL WEEK.

4. COMMENT: CALLAGHAN HAS ASSURED EMBOFF THAT THE
CONFERENCE ACTION NOTWITHSTANDING, A PLEDGE TO
REMOVE NUCLEAR BASES WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE INCLUDED
IN THE PARTY'S NEXT GENERAL ELECTION MANIFESTO.
WHEN CONFERENCE PASSED A SIMILAR RESOLUTION LAST YEAR,
HAROLD WILSON OBSERVED TARTLY THAT FOREIGN POLICY
WAS MADE BY GOVERNMENT, NOT PARTY CONFERENCES. THERE
IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT HE OR CALLAGHAN THINKS
DIFFERENTLY NOW.

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